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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :
Hikaru FUKUYAMA et al. : Attn: BOX PCT
Serial No. NEW : Docket No. 2001_0990A
Filed July 27, 2001 :

PUNCH FOR PREPARING TABLETS
[Corresponding to PCT/JP00/00450
Filed January 27, 2000]

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, DC 20231
Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants request consideration of ☒ the references listed on attached form PTO-1449 and/or ☐ the additional information identified below in paragraph 3. A legible copy of each reference listed on the form PTO-1449 and each U.S. patent application listed below is enclosed, except a copy is not provided for each reference previously cited by or submitted to the Patent Office in international application Serial No. PCT/JP00/00450.

1a. ☒ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:
within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, or
before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits,
and thus no certification and/or fee is required.

1b. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted

after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:

- (1) ☐ the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, **or**
- (2) ☐ the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

1c. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:

the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and
the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

2. It is hereby certified

- a. ☐ that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or
 - b. ☐ that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.
3. ☐ Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.
4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:
- a. ☐ a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,

- b. ☐ a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith,
 - c. ☐ the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page,
 - d. ☐ the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstract,
 - e. ☐ the concise explanation set forth below or on a separate sheet attached to the reference:
5. **[X] A foreign patent office search report citing one or more of the references is enclosed along with a copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report in Japanese.**

Please be advised that the International Preliminary Examination Report mentions in the International Preliminary Examination as follows:

Each of the inventions claimed in claims 1 to 16 has inventive step or unobviousness over the prior art references cited in the International Search Report. There is no disclosure of "treatment of punch surface by Cr-Dopé-N coating" in the prior art reference No. 1. As the result of above treatment, the claimed inventions of this application show advantageous effects, i.e. excellent corrosion resistance and releasing property in the production of tablets containing an acidic substance, and excellent releasing property in the production of tablets containing an adhesive substance.

Respectfully submitted,

Hikaru FUKUYAMA et al.

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July 27, 2001

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Date Submitted to PTO: July 27, 2001

ATTY DOCKET NO.
2001_0990ASERIAL NO.
NEWAPPLICANT
Hikaru FUKUYAMA et al.FILING DATE
July 27, 2001

GROUP

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA						
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO	
	AJ	8-192295	7/1996	JP				
	AK	2-104496	4/1990	JP				
	AL	64-27798	1/1989	JP				
	AM	11-158571	6/1999	JP				
	AN							

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AO	Microfilm of Japanese Utility Model Application No. 42240/1989 (Laid-open no. 133294/1990), (Kabushiki Kaisha Kikusui Seisakusho), November 6, 1990, Claim of Japanese Utility Model.
	AP	
	AQ	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.